



ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

Orthodox Church
in America

orthodoxalexandria.org

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Welcome to our parish!

Thank you for choosing to worship with us on the Lord's Day. We are grateful for your prayers and participation!

Please join us for coffee hour after the service. Our priest, Father Alessandro, would love to greet and welcome you.

Holy Eucharist requires full communion of faith, so if you are not an Orthodox Christian, please do not approach the Chalice. If you are an Orthodox Christian, please note that communion must be preceded by fasting, recent Confession, and reconciliation with all people.

September 24, 2023

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 7

Holy New Martyrs of Alaska, Juvenaly
and Peter the Aleut

Holy Protomartyr and
Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla

Ven. Silouan of Mt. Athos

Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla

Thecla was born in Iconium of eminent but pagan parents. As a girl of eighteen, she was betrothed to a young man at the same time that the Apostle Paul arrived in Iconium with Barnabas to preach the Gospel. Hearing Paul's testimony for three days and nights, Thecla converted to the Christian Faith, and vowed to live in virginity. Her mother, seeing that she was now ignoring her betrothed and no longer thought of marriage, tried to dissuade her, and then beat her and tortured her by starvation. Finally, this wicked mother turned Thecla over to the judge and demanded that Thecla be burned.

The judge threw her into the fire, but God preserved her unharmed. Then, Thecla followed the Apostle Paul, and went to Antioch with him. Attracted by Thecla's external beauty, a certain elder of the city wanted to take her for himself by force, but Thecla escaped his grasp. The pagan elder accused her to the eparch as a Christian who disdained marriage. The eparch condemned her to death, and had her thrown to wild beasts, but the wild beasts did not touch the body of this holy virgin. Amazed by this, the eparch asked her: "Who are you and what kind of power is in you, that nothing can harm you?" Thecla replied: "I am a servant of the Living God."

The eparch then released her, and she departed to preach the Gospel. She succeeded in converting many to the true Faith, among whom was Tryphena, a prominent and honorable widow. Then, having received the blessing of the Apostle Paul to do so, Thecla withdrew to a secluded place near Seleucia. There she lived a life of asceticism for a long time and, by healing the sick with wonderworking power, she converted many to Christianity.

The doctors and soothsayers in Seleucia were envious of her, and sent some young men to defile her, hoping that the loss of her virginity would also mean the loss of her miraculous power. Thecla fled from these arrogant young men, but as they were about to catch her, she prayed to God for help.

A large rock opened up and hid this holy virgin and bride of Christ. This rock was her refuge and her tomb. St. John Chrysostom says of this wonderful Christian heroine and saint: "It seems to me that as I see this blessed virgin, in one hand she offers Christ virginity, and in the other hand, martyrdom."

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REQUESTING PRAYERS: Michelle, Yuri, Kelsey and her unborn

DEPARTED: Danyelle, Mary, Lisa, Joan

CATECHUMEN: Calvin

MISSIONARIES: The McDonald family

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO VESPERS: Please note that there will be no Great Vespers at All Saints this Saturday. Because of the Archdiocesan Assembly, everybody is invited to attend Vigil at St. Nicholas Cathedra.

JOURNEY TO FULLNESS: Fr. Alessandro leads the discussion on the introductory course to the Orthodox Church called *Journey to Fullness*. The course has been prepared and produced by [Fr. Barnabas Powell](#). The sessions will be held at 7:00p every Thursday via Zoom.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choirs members, please note the date of the choir rehearsal is Oct. 14.

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL: The parish of St. Matthew Orthodox Church in Columbia, MD will host its annual multicultural festival on October 6-8. Please visit their website for more information.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

September 24, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

September 26, Tue

9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

September 28, Thu

7:00 PM

Journey to Fullness (Zoom)

October 1, Sun

8:45 AM

Church School

9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy

MINISTRY ROTATIONS

Sept 24

Oct 1

Coffee Hour:

Childs

Margheritino

Reader:

Childs

Class

Fr. Alessandro is available for Confession on Saturday after Vespers or by appointment